

**00631**

**1962/10/23**

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

SS

Info

FROM: New Delhi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1345, October 23, 7 P.M.

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 1345, INFORMATION USUN PRIORITY 66

ELITE EYES ONLY

I saw Foreign Secretary Desai at 5:00 this evening to press our position on Cuba. He had talked with Prime Minister, been over the documents and was responsive to my case. I repeated with great emphasis our hope that they would avoid comment or statement that would give comfort to the Soviets or the Communist uproar. While I got no commitment I think we can reasonably count on this.

Desai spoke appreciatively about our taking matter to UN but noted we faced a Soviet veto in Security Council. I noted that we would carry it to Assembly and said we counted heavily on a favorable Indian position. He said speaking informally he thought their reaction would be to say that if, as Cubans and Soviets alleged, missiles were purely defensive then there was nothing to lose from UN inspection. If they wouldn't accept investigation this confirmed our case and justified our alarm. He said we would welcome such a stand. This, of course, is no contract and New York position may well be less clear. However, the Indian position is clearly open to argument and persuasion and therefore it is important that I be kept both intimately and expeditiously informed.

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